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# NT 520 Introduction to the New Testament

Brian D. Russell

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**This is a rough draft that indicates objective and texts. The full syllabus will be available Sept 2, 2002 in class. If you are looking to get an early start, reread the entire New Testament.**

## **NT 520 Introduction to the New Testament**

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Fall 2002  
Tuesday Evening

Other hours by appointment

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**Description:** This is an introduction to the New Testament, its content, its context, and its interpretation. In the course of the semester, we will examine the individual books of the New Testament; the Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts out of which the New Testament arose; various types of interpretative methods used to study the New Testament; and theological themes in the New Testament. We will work to draw this knowledge together into a means for thinking about the New Testament in our contemporary context.

**Objectives:** By the end of this course the student should be able to

- give a broad account of the content of the individual New Testament writings and identify resources for further study of these writings;
- articulate the social and historical background out of which the New Testament arose;
- articulate how one's beliefs about Scripture impinge on how one engages biblical texts in interpretation;
- identify a range of questions (e.g., historical, literary, canonical) that might be addressed to particular New Testament texts and explore those questions in the process of interpreting particular New Testament texts;
- identify significant, critical resources for New Testament study and deploy those sources critically in New Testament study;
- probe the interplay of theology and ethics in the various New Testament writers;
- demonstrate awareness of the significance of the original languages for understanding and interpreting the New Testament; and
- integrate these concerns and methodologies in a sound hermeneutic.

**Required Reading:**

The New Testament (RSV or NRSV)

Green, Joel B., ed. *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1995.

Achtemeier, Green, Thompson; *The New Testament: its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2001.

Witherington, Ben. *New Testament History*:... Baker, 2002.

Patzia, Arthur G. *The Making of the New Testament: Origin, Collection, Text & Canon*. Downers Grove: IVP,